

DESERT AIRMAN

AIRSHOW EDITION
APRIL 1, 2005





Photo by Airman First Class Jesse Shipps

On the way to his motorcade President George W. Bush (right) takes a moment to greet Col. Michael Spencer, (left) 355th Wing commander, and Lt. Gen. Randall "Mark" Schmidt, 12th Air Force commander. President Bush landed at Davis-Monthan March 21 while traveling to Tucson to address a group of seniors about Social Security reform.

Commander sends message

One year ago, what we see this weekend was merely a picture in our minds. During the past 12 months, the hardwork and deter-

mination of Airmen from across the installation have made that mission a reality.

The theme of this year's Aerospace and Arizona Days is, "Saluting Freedom in the Old Pueblo."

This theme has a dual meaning. First, it stands as a tribute to every Airman who has ever served at Davis-Monthan. Second, it's our way to thank the citizens of Tucson and Southern Arizona for their support of aviation and our United States military.

Finally, this weekend is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our stewardship of the resources America has given us. We are inviting our neighbors and friends to see the pride we take in preserving the installation. We will showcase to them the professionalism with which we maintain and operate aircraft. And we will show the precision and compassion as we pull off an event involving hundreds of thousands of visitors over a short period of time.

The citizens of our nation sacrifice to ensure we have the tools and opportunity to fulfill our mission. This weekend allows us not only to show how we preserve these resources, but also to highlight our most valuable treasure — American sons and daughters who wear Air Force Blue.

As we do this, we will honor the sacrifice of the 1,000 Desert Lightning Airmen who are

currently deployed engaged in the War on Terror.

So, please bring your family, friends and neighbors to the airshow this weekend. It's going to be a great time.

And for those who will volunteer this weekend ... you have my personal thanks. I continue to be extremely proud to serve with you.

Agency numbers

AAFES Agencies.....228-3904	Housing Office.....228-3687
Finance228-4964	Inspector General.....228-3558
Chaplain.....228-5411	Legal.....228-6432
Civil Engineering.....228-3401	Lodging.....228-4845
Clinic.....228-2930	Military and Civilian Equal
Commissary.....228-3116	Opportunity Office.....228-5509
Family Support.....228-5690	Military Personnel.....228-5689
Fitness and Sports	Public Affairs.....228-3204
Center.....228-0022	Security Forces.....228-6178
Haefner Fitness	Services.....228-5596
Center.....228-3714	Transportation.....228-3584

Supporting each other and working together to provide the best programs and services is a goal for all Davis-Monthan people. Ideas, suggestions, comments, concerns and kudos are important to make improvements. The best way to pass along a comment or to get an answer to a concern is to contact the agency chief or functional managers listed here. Still no solution? The Commander's Corner phone line is 228-4747. An e-mail can also be sent to: 355thWingCommandersCorner@dm.af.mil. Callers must leave their name, phone number and a message. They will receive a prompt reply in writing or by telephone. We will honor caller confidentiality. If a concern is of general interest to the base populace, the response may be published in the Desert Airman. Anonymous calls may not be published.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Team D-M Mission Spotlight

The 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is responsible for all combat and training sorties generated by the 355th Wing. The 355th AMXS manages the efforts of more than 570 personnel in 13 different specialties maintaining A/OA-10 attack aircraft.

The team provides mission-ready aircraft in order to meet operational requirements for the 354th Fighter Squadron, the 357th Fighter Squadron and the 358th Fighter Squadron.

In addition, the 355th AMXS develops and executes the scheduled maintenance plan to maintain long-term fleet health and provides forces to support worldwide contingency taskings.



Senior Airman Russell Spurlin, 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, rewires the right-side generator system to repair an electrical problem on an A-10 Thunderbolt II. Airman Spurlin was named the 355th Wing 2004 Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year.

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DESERT AIRMAN

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Airshow rules of engagement

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

Military members and civilians are invited to visit Davis-Monthan to view various aircraft performances and static displays Saturday and Sunday.

To make this event as enjoyable as possible, all attendees must follow the established guidelines.

To access the base, both the Craycroft Road Gate and the Swan Road Gate will be open to the public providing only inbound access to the airshow from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. these gates will be dedicated to outbound airshow traffic. The Wilmot Road Gate will be open at 6 a.m. to those with military identification for normal base access.

Parking on base will be offered at no cost. However, spaces are limited and spectators will be required to walk from the parking lot to the airshow entrance.

To avoid a long walk, attendees are encouraged to utilize the Tucson public transportation service, which will provide service from off-base directly to the airshow entrance. Pick-ups for the airshow will be made at park and ride points at the Park Place Mall, Tucson Electric Park and the Pima Air and Space Museum.

Closer parking spots for handicap spectators will be available to those with proper identification on their vehicle.

Davis-Monthan is not responsible for items left in vehicles.

Prior to entering the airshow, all vehicles, personnel and their belongings are subject to search.

Individuals are authorized to bring baby bags, fanny packs, small purses and strollers to the airshow. Spectators may also bring hand carried non-alcoholic beverages in plastic bottles and food items with them. In addition, cameras and video cameras are authorized.

Due to heightened security measures backpacks, large purses, duffle bags, camelbacks,

coolers, pets, weapons, bicycles, skateboards, scooters and inline skates will not be authorized at the airshow.

All entry guidelines will be strictly enforced to ensure public safety and eliminate foreign object damage hazards on the flightline. Gate officers may refuse admittance to persons trying to enter with such items.

These security requirements are for individual safety and are imposed upon military members and civilians equally. Air Force and local law enforcement officials will be in place at every entry gate to enforce these rules.

The schedule of events will be the same both days and will include an opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Between 10:45 a.m. and noon there will be performances by:

- ◆ Penny Varden,
- ◆ F-16 Demonstration Team,
- ◆ F-18 Demonstration Team,
- ◆ Tim Weber and
- ◆ Red Barons 2-Ship Demonstration Team.

Between 12:30 and 3 p.m. there will be performances by:

- ◆ T-6 II Demonstration Team,
- ◆ T-6 Heritage performers,
- ◆ TORA! TORA! TORA!,
- ◆ P-51s,
- ◆ B-25 Doolittle Raid,
- ◆ Kirby Chambliss,
- ◆ The Golden Knights,
- ◆ Red Barons 4-Ship Demonstration Team,
- ◆ A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team,
- ◆ Heritage Flight performers and
- ◆ Combat Search and Rescue Demonstration Team.

Between 3 and 4:30 p.m. there will be a performance by:

- ◆ The Thunderbirds.

Pilots and crewmembers will be on-hand from 4:30 to 5 p.m. for an autograph session.

All times and performances are subject to change.

(Information courtesy of www.aadays.org.)

News Notes

Swan Road Gate closure

Swan Road Gate will open for Aerospace and Arizona Days. The gate is scheduled to reopen permanently in May.

New customer service hours

The 355th Comptroller Squadron customer will now offer customer service walk-in service Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Effective Monday, the Civilian Personnel Flight will be open for walk-ins from 8 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Appointments will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Women's history luncheon

The Davis-Monthan Women's History Luncheon originally scheduled for March 21 has been changed to April 11 at 11 a.m. at The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club.

DFAS Web site to move

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site has changed from, www.dfas.mil to www.dod.mil/dfas.

TSP class

The Family Support Center is offering a Thrift Savings Plan class April 14 from 9 to 10 a.m. in Building 3200, Room 243. For more information, or to sign up, call 228-5690.

Carseat checks

The 355th Civil Engineer Squadron offers carseat inspections to ensure they are properly installed. In some cases, the 355th CES can also provide carseats to individuals who do not have the proper carseats for their children. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call Peter Delillo at 228-4333.

Appearances, speeches

Military and civilian personnel are authorized and encouraged to speak to audiences unfamiliar with the Air Force. When asked to speak about the Air Force or individual jobs, contact the 355th Wing Public Affairs Office for guidance. For more information on the Base Speakers Bureau, call Janie McLaury at 228-5091.

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Airmen were saved from the consequences of driving under the influence by the Airmen Against Drunk Driving Program since Dec. 31. This is current as of March 21.

Call AADD at
850-2233

Fridays and Saturdays from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.
AADD volunteers provide rides.



Emergency Numbers

Ambulance.....	911	Base Operations.....	228-4315
Casualty Assistance.....	228-3686	Mortuary Officer.....	228-5964 or 4414
(After duty hours).....	228-3121	(After duty hours).....	228-3121
Duty Chaplain.....	228-5411	Command Post.....	228-7400
(After duty hours).....	228-3517	355th Security Forces Crime Stop.....	228-4444
Fire Reporting.....	911	Safety.....	228-5558
Public Affairs.....	228-3204	(After duty hours).....	909-0316
(After duty hours).....	228-7400	Base locator.....	228-3347
Fraud Waste and Abuse.....	228-3177	TIPS Line.....	228-TIPS (8477)

Terrorism history

April 1, 1993, unidentified assailants kidnapped and killed one of India's top heart surgeons who was subsequently revealed to be a leading member of the militant Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. Kashmiri militants alleged Indian security forces carried out the assassination, a charge Indian authorities denied.



Photo by Senior Airman Michael Frye

An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds sits on the tarmac at Joe Foss Field, S.D. The premier Air Force aerial demonstration team performed in an airshow for 40,000 spectators the following day. Saturday and Sunday the Thunderbirds will be performing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

AF Thunderbirds take to skies above D-M

By Stephanie Ritter

355th Wing Public Affairs

As the world's most maneuverable fighter, the Lockheed Martin F-16C Fighting Falcon is the only fighter in the Air Force's inventory capable of pulling nine times the force of gravity, said Capt. David Moreland, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron pilot.

The aircraft can also locate targets in all weather conditions and detect low-flying aircraft in radar ground clutter. An all-weather capability allows it to accurately deliver ordnance during non-visual bombing conditions.

One Fighting Falcon can fly more than 500 miles, deliver its weapons with superior accuracy, defend itself against enemy aircraft and return to its starting point.

And when eight of these aircraft are combined with a team of 120 highly-trained Airmen from 25 career fields, the result is the U.S. Air Force's premier Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds.

"Being a Thunderbird is an incredible experience," Captain Moreland, Thunderbird number 11, said. "I am surrounded by highly motivated, extremely professional and truly outstanding people. We are very proud of the fact that in 52 years we have never cancelled an airshow due to a maintenance difficulty. That is not only a testament to the airframe but it also speaks volumes about the men and women who maintain it. As Thunderbirds, we have a unique opportunity to showcase to the general public the same pride and professionalism that our Air Force uses daily around the globe in the war against terrorism."

Of the eight Thunderbird pilots, six are dem-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sean White

A four-ship Thunderbird Delta Formation flies a photo mission over Death Valley, Calif.

onstration pilots. These pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about an hour and fifteen minutes.

But the Thunderbird team uses their performances around the globe to do more than simply showcase the aircraft's capabilities.

According to Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Quintana, U.S. Air Force ADS Air Force Recruiter, the Thunderbirds try to focus on three tasks.

The mission of the Thunderbirds is to recruit, retain and represent, Sergeant Quintana said.

These three tasks mean the Thunderbirds are constantly striving to recruit the next generation of Airmen to join the Air Force, to help retain the men and women in the current Air Force and to represent the U.S. Air Force to those who otherwise do not get a chance to see its members.

Like they would during any airshow, the demonstration team plans to focus on these tasks while performing during Davis-Monthan Air

Force Base's Aerospace and Arizona Days 2005.

The team will work to meet their mission during the airshow at D-M by showcasing all of the many aspects of the Thunderbird team, from the pilots flying the F-16s, to the maintenance personnel that take care of the jets to all of the support crew, Sergeant Quintana said. "It is our hope that at the end of the airshow, all who saw the show will look at us and the Air Force and say to themselves, that is something that I would like to be part of."

For some members of the Thunderbirds, performing at D-M will mean a little more than typical performances during other airshows.

"D-M was my first assignment and I have a lot of great memories there," Captain Moreland said. "As a young lieutenant, I was offered numerous opportunities to work with a variety of aircraft and missions. My assignment (at) D-M was definitely a building block in the foundation that led to my selection with the Air Force Thunderbirds. It's awesome that I'm getting a chance to return to where it all started for me."

For everyone interested in seeing a performance by the Thunderbirds, D-M's airshow promises to deliver that and more.

"This year's airshow is going to be fantastic," Captain Moreland said. "You'll see leading edge technology being maintained and operated at the razor's sharp edge of performance. You'll see the same precision on the ground that you will witness in the sky. Our team has been working hard in training season for the last four months in preparation of giving you a show that you'll never forget. We have added a few things this season and I don't want to spoil the surprise. You'll have to come out to the show and see it for yourself."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal

Airman 1st Class Chris Langbehn, 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, attaches a Missile Launching System Tester to the LAU-105 missile launch rail on an A-10 Thunderbolt II.



Airman 1st Class Jesse Tyson, 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, uses the armament circuit test set attached to the MAU-40/50 rack to check for proper voltage. Airman Tyson is talking to Staff Sgt. Kelly Evans, 355th AMXS, who is sitting in the A-10 Thunderbolt II cockpit selecting stations and weapons to ensure proper voltage to the rack.

Weapon loaders demonstrate skills

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 355th Maintenance Group will demonstrate their exceptional precision in loading munitions Saturday and Sunday during the 2005 Aerospace and Arizona Days Airshow.

"People are always impressed with the military strike films on television because they get to see targets blow up, but seldom do they get to see the process of how the bombs get to the aircraft and ultimately end up at those targets," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Kerr, 355th Maintenance Group loading standardization crew chief. "That is our job and we do it every day, so if they are interested in seeing that process, they should come out and watch our demonstration."

This display will also provide spectators the opportunity to interact with weapon load crews.

"We will have one crew performing one load demonstration at a time and another crew will be available to answer questions during the load," Sergeant Kerr said. There will be four weapons standardization load crews, all selected from the three A-10 aircraft maintenance units.

The weapons load crews will conduct all the procedures that are required to take munitions from a trailer and load them on an A-10 aircraft before it flies a combat mission, Sergeant Kerr said.

To accomplish this, crews are composed of three people.

"The load crew chief supervisor is in the number one position and is responsible for the entire loading operation," Sergeant Kerr said. "They en-

sure all the steps in the technical order are followed and perform the functional checks on the aircraft. They also take the munitions from the trailer and load them on the aircraft."

"The number two load crew member is responsible for preparing the aircraft stations for the munitions to be loaded," Sergeant Kerr said. "They inspect the pylons and bomb racks for serviceability and assist the load crew chief in performing the aircraft functional checks."

"The number three load crew member is responsible for the munitions preparation," Sergeant Kerr said. "They inspect the munitions and ensure they are safe and serviceable to load on the aircraft. They also drive the bomb lift truck that transports the munitions from the trailer to the aircraft."

"Teamwork among weapon loaders is very important because everything we do is performed as a team," said Staff Sgt. David Hinds, 355th AMXS lead crew chief.

This teamwork and attention to detail can be seen when the weapons load crews are preparing aircraft for daily training operations or supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

"Every munition that has been dropped or fired from an aircraft in support of the global war on terror has been loaded by a weapons load crew," Sergeant Hinds said. "We are not only responsible for loading the munitions but also ensuring they will release and operate properly to carry out that mission."

For more information about weapon loaders, A&A Days attendees can visit the display on the fightline.



Staff Sgt. Kelly Evans (right) and Airman 1st Class Jesse Tyson tighten the bolts holding this MK-82 bomb onto an A-10 aircraft. Team member Airman 1st Class Ebony Calhoun backs the MJ-1 bomb lift truck, which brought the MK-82 bomb into position under the MAU-40/50 rack. All of the Airmen are from the 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



Courtesy photos

Major Robert Brogan, A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team, performs at the Amigo Air Show over El Paso, Texas, during October 2004. The West Coast Demonstration Team will perform Saturday and Sunday at their home station of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base during Aerospace and Arizona Days 2005.

A-10 demo helps showcase D-M mission

By Airman 1st Class Clark Staehle
355th Wing Public Affairs

"When you consider the rounds are about the size of a Coke bottle, it is amazing that the gun can fire almost 70 rounds per second," said Major Robert Brogan, A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team officer in charge and demonstration pilot, of the A-10's cannon. "It's almost inconceivable to think how much lead is going through the gun at one time."

The cannon jutting out of the nose of the plane and would look awkward on any other plane, but seems to fit just right with this airplane's character, said Staff Sgt. Chad Edwards, assistant NCO in charge of the A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team, crew chief and narrator.

"The lines and aerodynamics of this airplane were designed around its functionality," Major Brogan said. "It's just a very versatile airplane, the designers really had a great idea in mind when they built this thing."

The A-10 was designed with its primary mission in mind; close air support of ground forces in combat.

Airshow spectators will be able to see these capabilities when the A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team performs at the 2005 Aerospace and Arizona Days airshow.

"The A-10 demo showcases the outstanding maneuverability of the aircraft as well as both ends of



Capt. Matt Morrison, A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team, signs autographs for spectators at the Salinas, Calif., airshow held during October of 2004. The A-10 West Coast Demonstration Team along with other airshow participants are scheduled to sign autographs Saturday and Sunday from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

its speed regime," Major Brogan said. "I will also simulate several gun and bomb passes. Nothing will actually be employed from the jet; however, pyrotechnics on the ground will simulate explosions.

"The maneuvers that I do are nothing necessarily bizarre or unique that any other A-10 pilot down the line has not done before, but the difference is I do them a lot lower to the ground so it's more of a proficiency level than anything," Major Brogan said.

The West Coast Demonstration Team is mainly responsible for shows west of the Mississippi River

and performs at about 35 shows a year between February to November.

"Last year we did 38 show sites, and I was (on temporary duty assignments) 180 days out of the year," Major Brogan said. "It's a busy schedule but very rewarding."

Because the demo team performs for audiences, there are subtle differences between those airplanes and the ones used in combat zones.

"One of the first things people will notice when they walk up to it is the demo airplanes are pristine, they're very, very clean," Major Bro-

gan said. For that reason, the gun is not fired on the demo airplanes because the discharge of gasses can get the plane dirty quickly.

"The other noticeable difference on the demo A-10 is we've removed five of the pylons, or stations if you will, underneath the wings," Major Brogan said. The pylons are removed to reduce both the weight and drag of the airplane so it will perform better.

While the demo team performs many shows throughout the year, it is no small undertaking. Many people work throughout the entire year to ensure things go smoothly.

"The community itself, the pilots and the maintainers who are involved in the airplane, to me, have been the best folks to I've ever worked with," Major Brogan said.

"It is a great honor to represent your peers, your job and your base around the country," Sergeant Edwards said. "The chance to be able to showcase your talents and your expertise while promoting good community relations for the United States Air Force is a great way to represent your country and its proud servicemen and women."

"I hope we get a great showing," Major Brogan said. "I hope the folks who do come out really enjoy the show. We've got a great lineup, especially with the Thunderbirds being here. I can't think of a better way to spend the day. It's a free show and great opportunity to see what the Air Force has to offer."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce

Senior Airman Wyatt Rhoden, 355th Security Forces Squadron, competes in the 2004 Tucson area K-9 Trials with Military Working Dog Ralf. This particular event tested Ralf's obedience and training on attack.

Working together

SFS Airmen, K-9s display their skills

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

Military working dog handlers and their K-9 counterparts will conduct a demonstration Saturday and Sunday to show their ability to work together as a team.

This display is designed to showcase the skills of three 355th Security Forces Squadron Airmen and their military working dogs.

During the showing of the handlers' and K-9s' skills, there will be displays of attack work where the dogs will strike a suited man. The team will also conduct detection demonstrations.

All of these are necessary skills for military working dogs to possess because force protection is a priority at every installation, said Staff Sgt. Jason Winge, 355th SFS military working dog trainer. The MWDs are key factors in completing this mission. To ensure the dogs are prepared for the challenges they may face, they receive training ranging from explosive detection to participating in war time scenarios.

Working dogs are a key part of security on military installations.

The dogs play a large role in preventing crimi-

nal activities, Sergeant Winge said. This is because the dogs provide a psychological deterrence to potential criminals.

In addition, the dogs have abilities that surpass a human's, said Staff Sgt. Andrew Esparza, 355th SFS kennel master.

During a normal duty-day, the dogs work a 10 to 12 hour shift, which includes participating in patrols of the installation and aiding with force protection.

To establish continuity, once a dog is assigned to a handler, the team will work together until one of the two is moved to a new duty station, said Sergeant Esparza. These teams take time to build a rapport with one another.

For this reason, when a military working dog handler deploys they take their K-9 partner with them.

"We want to send our teams out knowing they trust one another and work well together on every mission whether it is for Presidential support or an aerospace expeditionary force rotation," Sergeant Esparza said.

For more information on military working dogs and their handlers, airshow attendees can visit the flightline display Saturday and Sunday.

Airmen help to brighten future of others

Operation Crayon provides Iraqi children with a variety of paper, pencils, clothing, miles of smiles

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

Many Airmen and Soldiers stationed at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, have been performing a mission they may not have envisioned when they learned they were deploying.

In addition to completing their military duties, they have sparked the imagination of Kirkuk students by participating in Operation Crayon.

The Kirkuk Air Base volunteers exchange donated school supplies with local school children for smiles, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Lohr, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron photographer, deployed from D-M.

Servicemen and women collect and deliver writing and construction paper, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, glue, safety scissors, coloring books, crayons, markers and sports equipment. In addition, they accept clothing items such as pants, shirts, shorts, jackets and more.

For information on donating, contact Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal, 355th Communications Squadron at 228-3406.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Lohr

School children surround U.S. servicemen and women from Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, delivering donated school supplies and clothing to them.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Lohr

Teachers and students at a Kirkuk, Iraq, school stand in line awaiting the arrival of U.S. servicemen and women with school supplies from the air base.



Courtesy photo

U.S. servicemen stationed at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, distribute donated school supplies to children.

GIVING BACK

D-M works to thank Tucson for support

By Master Sgt. Art Newman
355th Mission Support Squadron

Once every other year for two days, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base opens its doors and invites everyone in.

Without this opportunity, the Tucson community only sees us as they drive down Golf Links or Kolb Roads and look through the fence or when our aircraft fly overhead.

During Aerospace and Arizona Days however, they have a chance to come inside the fence to see what the Air Force has to offer. The event provides a weekend for the community to get up close and personal with many different types of aircraft.

In addition, it offers an opportunity to see many amazing fly-bys and spectacular aerial acrobatics.

But the primary opportunity our neighbors and friends have is the chance to see the results of Davis-Monthan Airmen doing the mission.

There are four basic tenants that drive what happens on Davis-Monthan. The first tenant is developing and nurturing our Airmen. This tenant ensures everyone in uniform develops

into the best leaders America has come to expect from the Air Force.

The second tenant is prepare to deploy. With the current Global War on Terrorism, all Air Force members must be ready to deploy to wherever they are needed to defend the call of freedom.

The third tenant is fight when called. Once we are called, all Air Force members will be ready to carry out the mission they have been assigned, to fight to protect democracy as well as fellow Americans.

The fourth tenant is installation stewardship. Installation stewardship does not mean just taking care of things inside the fence, it means giving back to the Tucson community for all of

its support throughout the years.

Installation stewardship is our effort, as guests in Tucson, to show how the Air Force appreciates all Tucson has done for the people of Davis-Monthan. As Air Force members we should take great pride in getting involved in the community.

Although the opportunities for the Tucson community to come on base are limited, they often get to see your dedication. As Air Force members, we all take a lot of pride in helping out in the Tucson community, which actually helps us do our jobs better.

Whether it is helping out with the local Girl and Boy Scouts of America troops, helping at soup kitchens and homeless shelters,

"Giving back allows us to become better citizens, which in turn makes us better leaders. Helping out lets us see why the American ideal of freedom is so important, for when the call comes down to fight to protect that freedom, we are ready."

Master Sgt. Art Newman
355th Mission Support Squadron

sponsoring blood drives, being a Big Brother or Big Sister, spending time at retirement communities or the Veterans' Administration, lending a hand at the Humane Society or working with Habitat for Humanity, Air Force members need to give back to the community.

Giving back allows us to become better citizens, which in turn makes us better leaders. Helping out lets us see why the American ideal of freedom is so important, for when the call comes down to fight to protect that freedom, we are ready.

Yes, there are more than 6,000 of us in uniform on the Air Force base and all of us have sworn an oath to, "... protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against any enemy foreign or domestic ..." but as you can see there is a lot more to it.

We are sons and daughters, moms and dads, uncles and aunts, but most importantly, we are friends and neighbors of Tucson and we should take pride in that fact.

The base may only be open to the community for two days every other year, but I believe there is no fence between us.

Final Answer ————— What part of the airshow are you looking forward to the most?



**Airman 1st Class
Jared Kadis**
355th Operation
Support Squadron

"The biggest thing for me is just seeing the history of flight and how it's changed over time."



Brittney Guevara
Army and Air Force
Exchange Service Home
and Garden Center

"Airshows are always exciting and I get to hang out with all my friends."



Brian Childers
Army Corps
of Engineers

"Making sure the base has the infrastructure to support the crowds."



**Airman
Nicole Cagle**
358th Fighter
Squadron

"I can't wait to see the stunts they do in the air."



**Lt. Col.
Lee Fox**
355th Wing

"I'm looking forward to watching the airshow with my son Nathan and observing safe operations."



Ryan Gilliland
Son of Susie and
Airman 1st Class Jon
Gilliland, 355th
Communication
Squadron

"Planes!"



Sonoran Spotlight

(Editor's note: Sonoran Spotlight is a weekly feature of the Desert Airman that profiles a member — officer, enlisted or civilian — of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Clark Staehle

This week's Sonoran Spotlight is Senior Airman Covito Redman of the 355th Medical Support Squadron. Airman Redman is a patient administrator and was selected as the 2004 355th Wing Airman of the Year. According to his first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Franklin Roznovsky, he was nominated for the spotlight "due to his

outstanding bearing and appearance and his exceptional professional abilities."

The following are Airman Redman's responses to a variety of questions.

Main job responsibilities: I am the overseas clearance monitor.

Best aspect of the job: I enjoy helping families make a smooth transition to their next base.

Hobbies, outside activities: I like gym time, involving myself in outreach programs for my church and going to school.

What are your career goals? My goal is to join the Air Force physician assistant program and get my master's in health science.

What is your most memorable moment in the Air Force? My most memorable moment was deploying March through June 2004 to a forward location in Qatar.

Name someone who inspires you (or that you admire) and why: Chief

Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 355th Wing command chief, because he's a highly motivated individual and his purpose is clearly helping his troops.



Helping hands

Photo by Airman 1st Class Clark Staehle

Arnella Corrigan, D-M Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office manager, reviews quality control of charts submitted by VITA volunteers. The VITA program offers free income tax assistance for anyone with a military ID.

One family

ESA offers dependents a place to help community socialize

By Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy
355th Wing Public Affairs

Taking care of our own and the local community has always been a top priority at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

In an effort to reach out to the D-M community, the Enlisted Spouses Association offers enlisted dependents of active-duty members a place to go to volunteer and make friends.

"The purpose of the ESA is to support the local community first along with military members off-base as well," said Debbie Carter, ESA president. "As we know, each squadron usually has their own groups, but this is a way to join all forces to be a stronger and more informed base. We need to work as a whole not piece it together by word of mouth."

The more people the ESA has, the more they can accomplish as a team.

"Installation stewardship is a top priority at D-M," said Chief Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 355th Wing command chief. "Joining groups like ESA not only helps individuals to make friends but also offers D-M spouses a way to

get involved in our community, both on- and off-base."

"The ESA is involved with many things around the installation," Mrs. Carter said. "Some are the airshow, the 4th of July event, Voluntary Advisory Council, thrift shop, schools, scholarships, Miles of Smiles (at the Veteran's Hospital), Girl and Boy Scouts of America, local youth activities (on- and off-base), camp "Not-A-Wheeze" and Christmas gift wrapping. Just ask, we are more than happy to help when time permits."

In order to ensure everyone in the group is on the same page, the ESA holds monthly meetings.

The ESA meetings are held at the Hope Chapel on base the third Tuesday of each month from 6:15 to 8 p.m.

The meetings include guest speakers, games, learning activities and also offer the opportunity for great conversations, Mrs. Carter said. Dinner and dessert are also provided.

For those who want to get involved but have little ones at home, the ESA can help cover daycare expenses.

"We also reimburse some monies for daycare expenses if requested for the business portion only," Mrs. Carter said.

Individuals who are interested in becoming a member of ESA must be a spouse of an enlisted servicemember (active duty or retired) of any branch of service, or a reservist (with access to the base), Mrs. Carter said. The fees are \$2 a month or \$20 annually.

"Spouses should join the ESA for many reasons," Mrs. Carter said. "We have a wonderful group, both active duty and retired. We all have the same purpose and goal for the club. We enjoy the friendship and fun atmosphere at the meetings or activities. There is always something for everyone."

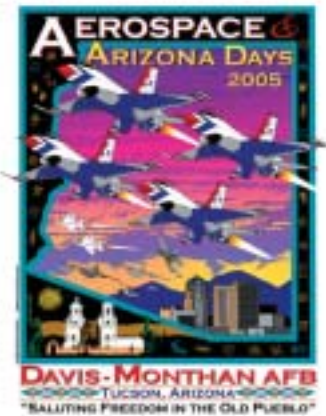
"The spouses of our servicemembers are just as much part of the Air Force family as those serving," Chief Cobb said. "I think it is important for spouses to partake in activities with one another. It offers them a place to go with something automatically in common — the military."

For more information on the ESA, or to sign-up, attend one of their monthly meetings.

Autographs

Aerospace and Arizona Days, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, April 2005







Courtesy photos

Charles Lindbergh, an American aviator, lands *The Spirit of Saint Louis* at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to dedicate the field. Charles Lindbergh made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean May 20, 1927 in *The Spirit of St. Louis* from Roosevelt Field near New York City.

A blast into the past

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base then, now

By Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy
355th Wing Public Affairs

The sand blows over the desolate, dry river bed like a wave in the ocean. A tumbleweed blows past. Cacti are aplenty and the music of a native snake's rattle is heard nearby. It could be the scene from a favorite western movie, but alas, it is Tucson, Ariz.

Prior to becoming the base Davis-Monthan is today, there were many changes from names to missions and beyond.

"The Army opened an airstrip known as Davis-Monthan Landing Field Nov. 1, 1925," said Master Sgt. Dale McGavran, 355th Wing chief of history. "Oct. 6, 1927, Charles Lindbergh dedicated the field as the Tucson Municipal Airport."

It was announced on Sept. 29, 1940, that the War Department had decided to build an air base at Tucson, Sergeant McGavran said. The first unit, the 88th Reconnaissance Squadron, arrived Jan. 21, 1941. Then, on Feb. 27, 1948, the base received its current name, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Throughout the history of D-M, the mission and aircraft have also changed.

B-18s, B-24s, B-29s, B-50s, KB-29s, T-33s, B-47s, F-86s, KC-97s, F-89s, F-101s, U-2s, F-4s, DC-230s, RC-130s, EC-130s, HC-130s, CH-3s, A-7s, A-10s, O-2s, OV-10s, A-37s, MH-3s and HH-60s have all had missions here.

"Following World War II, many decommissioned planes found their way here," Sergeant McGavran said.

As the name and missions have changed, D-M has also had its share of "firsts."

"During the early stages of the Cold War, crew training took precedence," Sergeant McGavran said. "Several firsts and records were set by crews at D-M. For example, March 2, 1949, the crew of the Lucky Lady II (a B-50) completed the first nonstop round-the-world flight."

In 1953, as the world moved toward jet-age aircraft, D-M received the B-47s.

"In 1960 D-M began construction on the first of 18 Titan II missile silos and from July 1963 through 1984, the 4080th Strategic Missile Wing was active at the base and at

various locations around southern Arizona," Sergeant McGavran said.

Over time, many individuals who have created a lasting impact on aviation have passed through D-M's gates.

Jimmy Doolittle, Henry "Hap" Arnold, Carl Spaatz, Benjamin Foulois, Claire Chennault, Charles Hamilton and Katherine Stinson were among many visitors who spent time at D-M.

"In the years since Sept. 11, 2001, the 355th Wing continues to develop its Airmen's war-fighting skills while being ready to deploy and fight when called," Sergeant McGavran said. "Today the men and women of the Desert Lightning Team strive to uphold the legacy of the Airmen whose service and sacrifice secured the freedom and liberties of America and our allies worldwide."

Though the landscape surrounding Davis-Monthan Air Force Base has changed from desert into a city, and the mission of the base has morphed, the footprints of those who came before have not been forgotten.



An aerial view of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Tucson July 21, 1943. In 1943, the Republic P-47D Thunderbolt was at D-M.



Airmen on the ramp of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base under the wing of a B-24 discuss maintenance. Davis-Monthan has had various planes since the opening of the base.

AMARC provides more than storage for aircraft

By Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center Public Affairs

The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center is a one-of-a-kind specialized facility within the Air Force Materiel Command structure. AMARC provides critical maintenance and regeneration capabilities for joint, allied and coalition warfighters in support of global operations and agile combat support for a wide range of military operations.

A major industrial center occupying 2,600 acres, AMARC manages an inventory of nearly 4,400 aircraft and more than 350,000 line items of tooling. In addition to the historic storage and disposition mission, the center's 795-member workforce regenerates aircraft, returning them to flying status or preparing them for overland shipment. The AMARC team also reclaims hundreds of millions of dollars worth of parts to support global warfighting operations.

This combination of parts reclaimed and aircraft withdrawn represents a return on taxpayer investment of more than \$1.2 billion, es-



Courtesy photo

The Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center's workforce regenerates aircraft, returning them to flying status or preparing them for overland shipment.

entially a \$12 return for every dollar spent at AMARC.

Although the center's primary customer is the Department of Defense, additional work loads come from other national, regional and local government agencies, as well as foreign allies.

Four product divisions; aircraft, commodities, storage and disposal; conduct AMARC's core industrial operations.

The Aircraft Division performs unparalleled regeneration and specialized aircraft repair. Current Aircraft Division activities include participa-

tion in the A-10 service life extension and wing modification programs, F-4 regeneration for the Air Combat Command's Full-Scale Aerial Target or drone program and partnership with the U.S. Navy to regenerate and deliver P-3 aircraft to various foreign allies in order to improve allied interoperability.

The Commodities Division removes, inspects, repairs and delivers aircraft parts and subassemblies in support of U.S. and foreign allied contingency and training efforts. In 2004, the division reclaimed and shipped worldwide 22,567 parts val-

ued at nearly \$700 million. Additionally, innovations by commodities division team members have saved the government millions of dollars in costs associated with the A-10 wing modification program.

The Storage Division prepares aircraft for short-and long-term storage and maintains them while in storage. These comprehensive preservation and maintenance practices safeguarded more than \$33 billion in aerospace assets and made possible the subsequent reactivation of many of these weapon systems.

The Disposal Division administers the receipt and accountability for all aerospace vehicles located at AMARC that have been declared excess to weapons systems program requirements.

An Air Force 2004 Organizational Excellence Award recipient, AMARC provides a critical capability among AFMC war-winning organizations. The center will continue to embrace new and innovative techniques necessary to best serve the Air Force, joint, allied and coalition partners well into the future.



Members of the Desert Lightning Community work on achieving a greater level of health by running at the base Fitness and Sports Center

Obtaining optimal fitness important to mission

Story and photos by Stephanie Ritter
355th Wing Public Affairs

Fit to fight is more than just a phrase in the Air Force; it is a commitment Airmen are striving to live up to, especially at Davis-Monthan.

"The purpose of the Air Force Fitness Test is to evaluate the ability of the member to move their body by using the muscular, skeletal and the cardiovascular systems," said Cesar Vinueza, 355th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Installation Fitness Program manager. "The results of the test allow the member to determine how aerobically and muscularly fit they are and, at the same time, monitor the effects of their exercise program using their fitness score. This information also allows the commander to determine the fitness level of a particular member or the entire unit."

But the bigger picture regarding the fitness test is the health of the force's Airmen.

"To be physically fit basically means that your heart, lungs, blood vessels and muscles function at optimal efficiency," Mr. Vinueza said. "By optimal efficiency I mean the most favorable health needed for the enthusiastic and pleasurable participation in daily tasks and recreational activities. People who are physically fit look better, feel better and possess the good health necessary for a happy and full life. The possession of optimal levels of cardiovascular and muscular fitness, not only for emergencies but for every-day living, can be the key to dynamic total health."

For those striving to achieve their optimal level of health, the personal reasons can vary.

"If I don't (workout) three times a week, I feel sluggish at work with zero energy to get anything done," said Chief Master Sgt. David Stuppy, 354th Aircraft Maintenance Unit maintenance superintendent. "In today's Air Force, you don't want to be that way."

"In the '80s when I entered the Air Force, we only went on simulated combat missions," Chief Stuppy said. "We would go to other countries to practice being in combat. Now we are in the middle of combat all the time. I think that is why there is a big push in the Air Force for the change; years ago we would just practice doing our war-time skills, now we are using our war-time skills."

In addition to the changes in mission requirements, Airmen are obtaining higher physical standards for personal reasons.

"My knees were starting to hurt a lot even

when I went up and down stairs," said Maj. Gary Abbott, 355th AMDS Optometry Flight deputy commander. "I was to the point where I could not do any type of exercise or sports without my knees hurting. I also could not do very many exercises or sports without getting out of breath in a short period of time."

So, Major Abbott said he altered his workout routine. He reevaluated his skill level, researched the fitness programs the base offered and is now living healthier.

"Stretching exercises have strengthened my knees and I now can run without pain," Major Abbott said. "Also, as I became more physically fit, I feel less sluggish during the day and now I can participate in the squadron (physical training) activities more readily."

Major Abbott said he is aware the benefits of being more fit are numerous.

"I am 48 and I realize that staying fit will be very important for my health," Major Abbott said. "If I am overweight and not fit, then I have a greater risk of developing high blood pressure, diabetes, etc. Being in good physical shape will reduce the chance of developing these diseases and hopefully allow me to live a longer, healthier life."

Mr. Vinueza said that when it comes to improving one's health and fitness level, they should keep the following points in mind:

◆ Decide what to aim for.

◆ Start slowly. This allows the body to tell what it can do and when it may need some fine tuning.

◆ Set goals. When it comes to goal setting, think SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed based.

◆ Change one habit at a time. Individuals may have bad habits that stand in the way of fitness goals and these should not be changed at the same time. If the bad habits have been a part of one's lifestyle for a long time, it is going to take time to get rid of them.

◆ Move the body everyday.

◆ Choose an enjoyable exercise. This will help individuals stick with the routine.

◆ Work out regularly. Regularly in terms of fitness means three to five days a week for 20 to 60 minutes to keep the heart rate in its target zone for at least 20 minutes.

Following these types of tips has helped people like Chief Stuppy and Major Abbott get in better shape.

"My outlook on fitness has changed dramatically," Chief Stuppy said. "I thought you had to be a gym nut to want to go to the gym and exercise all the time. But if you plan it out, and have some fun with it, it makes it more enjoyable."

"Optimal physical fitness makes possible a lifestyle that the unfit cannot enjoy," Mr. Vinueza said.



(Above) Maj. Gary Abbott, 355th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, performs a stretch during Fitness Boot Camp, a class held at the Fitness and Sports Center Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 7 a.m. Such stretches have helped reduce his knee pain.



(Right) Chief Master Sgt. David Stuppy, 354th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, works out in an effort to reach his optimal fitness level.

Sports Shorts

UDTF March Madness event

The Underage Drinking Task Force will host March Madness events at the Desert Lightning Community Center Saturday and Monday from 6 to 11 p.m. The college basketball semi-finals are Saturday and the National Championship game is Monday. The event will include basketball trivia, video games, board games, prizes and refreshments. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Ravineel Francis at 228-8999.

Learn to bowl

The Davis-Monthan community can sign up starting today for the new "Hook Up 2 Bowling" program. The HU2B program is a new player development program designed to make learning the game simpler, fun and affordable. Classes are scheduled to begin June 1. Certified bowling instructors will teach participants etiquette, terminology and bowling fundamentals. The cost is \$99 for adults and \$69 for those 18 years and younger. The cost includes eight hours instruction and on-the-lanes lessons. There will also be a free orientation before each clinic. They will also receive a free how-to-bowl booklet, tour of the D-M lanes and a chance for participants to interact with other bowlers. Everyone who completes the program will

receive a free towel, bowling ball and bag. For more information, call 228-3461.

Little League Opening Ceremonies

The Little League Opening Ceremonies are April 9 at 9 a.m. on the ball field located at the northwest end of National Boulevard. For more information, call 228-8844.

Teen paintball event

April 9, teens can visit the D-M Paintball Range from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost of \$20 includes safety equipment and 200 paintballs. Additional paintballs will cost \$3 per 100. Space for the event is limited. For more information, call 228-8844.

Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run

There is a Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run event April 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. behind 12th Air Force. There is no cost and people can test their skills for pitching, hitting and running the bases. Winners of the local competition will advance to the sectional competition. This competition is for ages 7 to 14 years. For more information, call 228-8844.

Preteen White Water Rafting Trip

Preteens can raft down the Upper Salt River April 30. The cost of \$50 per person includes a wet suit rental, lunch, transportation, instruction and supervision. For more information, call 228-8844.

Outdoor Recreation trips

The following are a variety of trips this spring offered by ODR for the Davis-Monthan community. For more information on any of these events, call ODR at 228-3736.

Romero Pools Hike

This trip is April 9 and includes a 5.7-mile hike into the Catalina Mountains. Once at the pools, hikers can relax and enjoy a dip. The cost of \$15 includes transportation and guide. Participants should dress for the weather, bring plenty of water, food and sunscreen and should sign up by April 6.

Moab Rafting

The D-M community can enjoy three days of rafting and camping and learn the fundamentals of rafting including knot tying, basic water rescue, oar work and much more May 12 through 15. The cost of \$375 includes all gear, transportation, food and experienced guides. The deadline to sign up is April 8, but those interested should sign up as soon as possible as space is limited.

Cochise Stronghold Hike

Cochise Stronghold is located in Arizona's Dragoon Mountains. This 6-mile hike May 28 will take hikers through woodland areas. The cost of \$15 includes transportation and a guide. Those interested should sign up no later than May 26.

Chapel Information

Services and activities offered by the D-M chapel are listed below. For more information on Jewish or Muslim services; Sunday School programs; Vacation Bible School; Bible studies; youth groups; and ministries, call 228-5411.

Catholic Mass schedule

Saturday: Due to Aerospace and Arizona Days 2005, April's First Saturday Mass will be held April 9 at 9 a.m. at the Desert Dove Chapel. The Mass will be followed by a breakfast fellowship. For more information, call Jeff Morgan at 574-2567.

Mass is at 5 p.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 4:30 p.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Sunday: Mass is at 7:30 and 10 a.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 9:15 a.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Daily: Mass is at 11:30 a.m. at Hope Chapel. Rosary begins at 11:10 a.m. at Desert Dove.

Protestant Services schedule

Sunday: Contemporary Service is held at 9:45 a.m. and Gospel Service is at 11:15 a.m. at Hope Chapel. Traditional Service is also at 11:15 a.m. but is at the Desert Dove Chapel.

Prayer Wall

The Base Chapel offers a Prayer Wall in the Desert Dove Chapel which displays pictures and names of deployed Airmen. To submit a name and picture for the Prayer Wall, contact Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Sturgill at 228-5411 or send an e-mail to timothy.sturgill@dm.af.mil. Members of the D-M community who wish to pray for these deployed Airmen are invited to stop by the Desert Dove Chapel to view the Prayer Wall.

Education Services

Pima Community College update

Late Spring classes are still available at PCC. Several weekend classes begin April 16 and run until May 8. Registration for summer classes began March 21. The summer and fall 2005 schedules are available on-line. Registration for fall will begin April 11. For more information, visit the PCC office in Building 3200, Room 224 or call 206-4866.

Veteran's scholarship opportunity

The 2005 Rich Wade Scholarship is being provided by the Arizona Veterans Program Association and is open to prior active-duty veterans with an honorable discharge. Applicants must be a full-time undergraduate student and an Arizona resident with a GPA of 2.5. Additionally, the veteran must be seeking a degree or certificate and attending a school approved for veteran's benefits. The deadline to apply is May 16. Applications are available in the Base Training and Education Services Office in Building 3200, Room 262. For more information, call Norma White at 228-4249 or Rafael Maldonado at 228-3484.

Changes made to SAT

A 25-minute essay has been added to the

Helping Airmen in need

The Davis-Monthan Food Locker is a resource used in emergency situations when military members, dependents, retirees and veterans need assistance and the need cannot otherwise be met with personal financial management or emergency aid resources. The food, or a check to the Commissary for items not available at the locker, is not a handout. It is to be used for short-term emergencies, allowing the user flexibility with their current financial situation. Personal Financial Management counseling is offered at the second visit and is a requirement after a third visit. There is no income eligibility requirement for individuals needing to use the D-M Food Locker. The shelves of the locker remain stocked through a variety of means including donations and the Combined Federal Campaign. For information about making monetary donations to the Family Support Center Fund Private Organization, call 228-5690.



Photo by Stephanie Ritter

Airman Chelsi Hedrick (left) and Master Sgt. Rubi Tornero, both with the 25th Operational Weather Squadron, conduct an inventory at the D-M Food Locker to see what items need to be purchased.

SAT. Vocabulary analogies and quantitative comparisons were eliminated. The exam takes three hours and 45 minutes to complete. This is 45 minutes longer than the previous SAT test. The new SAT is scored in three sections; writing, critical reading and mathematics, allowing a maximum score of 2,400 points. For more information, call Norma White at 228-4249 or Rafael Maldonado at 228-3484.

Family Support Center

Pre-separation Counseling

The Pre-separation Counseling Class is a mandatory class for Airmen separating that will acquaint them with services and agencies available to help with the transition to the civilian workforce. The next sessions are at the Family Support Center Tuesday and April 12 from 9 to 10 a.m. The class size is limited to 20 attendees and should be scheduled no later than 90 days before separating. To sign up, call 228-5690.

Resume, Interview Workshops

These two workshops are Wednesday at the D-M Family Support Center and cover the basic information to help individuals prepare for their next job. The Resume Workshop is from 9 to 11 a.m. and the Interview Workshop is from noon to 2 p.m. To sign up for one or both of the workshops, call 228-5690.

Smooth Move

The Family Support Center will conduct a Smooth Move briefing Wednesday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the D-M Family Support Center. This briefing helps individuals prepare for their next permanent change of station assignment. For reservations, call 228-5690.

Sponsorship Training

To learn how to make a great first impres-

sion for new members assigned to base, attend the Family Support Center's Sponsorship Class April 13 from 8 to 9 a.m. in Building 3210. This class is required for sponsors and covers effective sponsorship and offers useful resources and information. To sign up for the class, call 228-5690.

Happenings

Black Heritage Association

The BHA is seeking motivated individuals to be a part of the 2005 executive committee. Election of new committee officers will be held today from 10 to 11 a.m. in the 355th Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office classroom located in Building 2300. For more information concerning the various positions, contact Tech. Sgt. Robin Hawkins at 228-2688 or Tech. Sgt. Robin Boyd at 228-5620.

OSC Charity Gala & Silent Auction

The Davis-Monthan Officers' Spouses' Club Charity Gala & Silent Auction, "A Gift from the Heart," will take place April 16. Those who have not received an invitation but who would like one should contact either Elizabeth Kramlinger at 747-3037 or Carolyn Kincaid at 514-0948. Reservations must be made no later than today. Auction items are still being accepted for the event. To make a contribution, contact Ms. Kramlinger or Ms. Kincaid at the above numbers. The Charity Gala and Silent Auction has a vintage 1940s United Services Organization theme.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop, located on D-M across from the bowling alley, is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments closing at 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop will be closed Saturday for Aerospace and Arizona Days.

Mirage renovation project still in high gear

Base Conference Center on target for July completion

By Chris Sweeney
355th Services Squadron

Over the past two months, a major renovation project has been underway at The Mirage Officers' Club that will dramatically improve the overall appearance and service of the facility.

The extensive undertaking is one of many "quality of life" renovations and new construction projects taking place on Davis-Monthan, and is scheduled for completion in early July, according to Larry Sanders, 355th Services Squadron deputy director.

"The entire facility, with the exception of the Poly Bar, barber shop and kitchen, has been completely gutted out," Mr. Sanders said. "This will make way for much needed improvements including new walls and wall coverings, floors, carpet, tile, plumbing and much more. The club's dining room, from floor to ceiling, is being completely redone and will include new furniture with booth style seating. The entryway, main lobby, offices and bathrooms are also being refurbished and a completely new bar is being built in the ballroom."

The Mirage will include a new section referred to as a conference center because of its open availability to those needing a large facility to host meetings and more.

The center will offer five meeting rooms that can accommodate a total of 375 people. Three of these rooms will have partitions that open up into a single room that can seat up to

255 conference or special function attendees.

"Each conference room will be completely self-sufficient as far as audio, visual and computer support is concerned," said Staff Sgt. Mark Owens, 355th Communication Squadron, who is overseeing the A/V needs of the new Conference Center. "An integrated state-of-the-art control center, run by an assigned A/V specialist, will have the capability to support a single presentation in all rooms or different presentations in five rooms at any given time. The A/V specialist will be able to monitor and troubleshoot presentations using a master control panel in the control center or via a handheld remote panel."

The Conference Center's daily operations will be the responsibility of a new Conference Center director who will work closely with the club manager and catering manager to ensure all operations, including scheduling and food service, run smoothly during all conferences.

"Having the capability to hold conferences and supply our own food and beverage services without people having to leave the facility is a tremendous benefit for both the

club and conference attendees," said Sherry Jones, 355th SVS Mirage Club manager and caterer.

"We also want our present and future customers to know that there have been no disruptions to services at D-M since club operations were successfully transferred to The Desert Oasis (Enlisted) Club in January, including lunch and evening dining and cashier services," Ms. Jones said. "The Mirage's Poly Bar and barber shop will remain open during the entire renovation process."

"Our ultimate goal at The Mirage and new Conference Center is to provide our Airmen with another first class facility," Mr. Sanders said. "The partnership (of the two facilities) is another example of the 355th Services Squadron's commitment to developing and nurturing our Airmen and installation stewardship."

The grand opening of the new Mirage and Conference Center is scheduled for early July.

For more information regarding the project, or booking availability dates for the Conference Center call Ms. Jones at 228-3100 or 748-8666.



Courtesy graphic

An artist's rendition of the renovated entrance to The Mirage Officers' Club. The project will include a new base Conference Center, which will be able to seat 375 people in its five rooms. The project is scheduled to be completed in July.

Services Activities

Information for the Services Activities section courtesy of Chris Sweeney, 355th Services Squadron. For questions regarding this information, contact him at 228-7352.

Colossal Cookie Challenge

The Davis-Monthan community is encouraged to get out their favorite cookie recipes for the Colossal Cookie Challenge Thursday at the Desert Lightning Community Center. Contestants can participate in a cookie bake-off in one of four categories. Winners will be submitted to Air Combat Command for a chance to compete. All persons eligible to use the D-M Community Center and Youth Center may participate in the challenge. Winning recipes will be submitted for the Family Member Programs Community Center Colossal Cookie Challenge Recipe Book. For more information, or to sign up, call 228-3717.

N'awlins Night

Come out and enjoy a great Cajun buffet

at The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club's N'awlins Night April 15. There will be music, food and Cajun style fun. The menu includes andouille sausage, blazin' red fish, gumbo, red beans and rice, cajun corn, corn bread, dessert and more. Attendees can dance to zydeco music featuring disc jockey Hollywood. The cost is \$8.95 and members receive a \$2 discount and can use a Services Buck. Reservations are required for those wanting to eat. The buffet will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 228-3100.

Red Cross Babysitting Class

The American Red Cross will sponsor a Babysitting Class for D-M youth ages 11 to 15 years April 16 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$32 per person. Space is limited and permission slips are required. For more information, call 228-8844.

Day in the Park

D-M will host a Day in the Park April 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at Bama Park. Parents

may spend time with their children making crafts, playing games and enjoying a barbecue. For more information, call 228-8844

Services Hours for A & A Days

The following are the Services Activities that will be open Saturday and Sunday for Aerospace and Arizona Day. All other Services Activities will be closed. Blanchard Golf Course will offer morning tee times only and will close at noon both days. The Eagles Nest Restaurant will also close at noon both days. The D-M Child Development Center, Finley Child Development Center and D-M Youth Center will be open Saturday and Sunday for childcare by reservation only. This is subject to change. The Desert Lightning Community Center will be open Saturday from noon to 1 a.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. The Desert Inn Dining Facility will be open Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. The Fitness and Sports Center will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.